

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

The title has been objected to as not being descriptive. In response, a new title, which is more indicative of the claimed invention, is presented herein for the Examiner's consideration and approval.

Claims 1-9 and 31-39 are presented for consideration, claims 10-30 having been withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement. Claims 1 and 31 are independent.

By this amendment, claims 31-39 are newly added. Support for the new claims may be found in the application, as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Applicants note that claim 6 has been indicated as containing allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. In keeping with this indication of allowable subject matter, new independent claim 31 contains the features of claim 6, and consequently, claim 31 is submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-5 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. 2002-351269 (Saito et al.) in view of Japanese Patent No. 2003-107922 (Kaga). Applicants traverse this rejection.

In aspects of Applicants' invention, independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an image forming apparatus comprising an image bearing member with a first glossiness in a first direction and a second glossiness lower than the first glossiness in a second direction. The image forming apparatus also includes an optical detection device with an optical direction from the light-emitting portion to the light-receiving portion that is substantially the same as the first direction of the image bearing member.

By virtue of Applicants's invention, for example, a high quality image can be obtained through improved detection accuracy by an optical detection means.

Many features of Applicants' claimed invention are not taught or suggested by the cited documents, whether those documents are taken alone or in combination.

Saito et al. relates to an image forming apparatus having an intermediate transfer belt and a density detecting sensor. Applicants understand this patent to teach that the density detecting sensor may be used to detect a mark on the intermediate transfer belt.

Kaga relates to a conductive endless belt used in an image forming device. Applicants understand this patent to teach a belt with fixed limits on the ratio of glossiness in the direction of the belt's driving axis to glossiness in the direction of the belt's movement.

However, nowhere are Saito et al. and Kaga understood to teach or suggest an image bearing member having a first glossiness in a first direction and a second glossiness lower than the first glossiness in a second direction, wherein an optical direction from a light-emitting portion of an optical detection device to a light-receiving portion of the detection device is substantially the same as the first direction of the image bearing member.

Moreover, such features would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in light of Saito et al. and Kaga. Specifically, Saito et al. fails to disclose the glossiness of an image bearing member. Kaga discloses a glossiness (G_v) of an endless belt in the direction of the driving axis and a glossiness (G_H) in the direction of the belt's movement. Although the glossiness in one direction may be greater than the glossiness in the second direction, nothing in Kaga suggests to one of ordinary skill in the art that an

optical direction of an optical detection device should be the same as the direction of the higher glossiness of the belt.

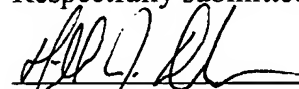
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 recites features that patentably define over the cited patents. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection of the independent claim are therefore requested.

The remaining claims depend from one of the independent claims and are believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependency from an allowable base claim, as well as for reciting additional patentable features of Applicants' invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Didas
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 55,112

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

MJD:eyw

DC_MAIN 212435v1